



Your DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE

October 2018 Parent e-Newsletter

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HOMECOMING WEEK: OCTOBER 7th - 13th

It's Homecoming Week at Hamline! Campus events this week began last Sunday afternoon, with a campus decorating and ice cream party. Hamline students spent the afternoon decorating the campus by chalking sidewalks, hanging banners, and painting windows in support of their fellow Pipers. Tuesday evening, students competed three-legged race-style to win a prize for finding the most glow sticks hidden throughout campus during the annual **Glow Scavenger Hunt**. At Wednesday's **DIY Hamline Pride** event, Pipers adorned sweaters and t-shirts with their own homecoming decorations. During Thursday's **Escape Room** event, participating students were given 30 minutes to solve all the clues necessary to escape a room. Tonight's **Lip Sync Competition** is a highly popular annual event, with students encouraged to perform their favorite songs on stage, without having to worry about singing. Rumor has it that Student Affairs staff will be making a guest appearance! After the Lip Sync Competition, students will dance the night away in Anderson Center at the **Homecoming Dance**.

Saturday has four big events slated for the day, starting with **Fall Fest** (11 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Alumni Way), which will kick off the day's celebrations with free caricature artists, henna artists, yard games, Disc Golf, and more! The **Homecoming football game against Gustavus** starts at 1:00 p.m. on Klas Field, and afterward students are invited to continue the celebration at the **Big Bash**, featuring dinner and live music. This year's Homecoming festivities will finally wind down with a **Coffeehouse Performance** at 7 p.m. in the basement of the Bush Center.

With events happening every day, there's something fun for every Piper during Homecoming Week! For more information or details regarding Homecoming events, contact HOMECOMING@hamline.edu, or check out the [Homecoming webpage!](#)

FALL BREAK, MIDTERMS, AND STRESS PREVENTION

Parents, a reminder that **Fall Break** is coming up on **Friday, October 26th**. Fall Break is a time for students to have a day away from class. The long weekend offers students a chance to take some time to catch up on rest or spend some time with friends before they dive back into the second half of the semester.

Fall break comes right on the heels of midterm examinations. During midterms, your student may need extra support from you in order to be successful. To help your student minimize stress during examinations, keep the following suggestions in mind:

To minimize stress during midterms, students should:

- Know when and where their exams will be given.
- Maximize studying during hours when they are usually most alert and efficient.
- Schedule breaks and avoid unrealistic goals for their study routine (e.g., "I will study for six hours and not take any breaks").
- As much as possible, stick to their regular routine. Avoid studying at late hours, or staying up all night.
- Avoid trying to do everything at once. Students should set their study priorities and work on the most pressing concerns first.

FAMILY WEEKEND

Family members and friends of the Hamline community, be sure to save the date for **Family Weekend**, coming up **November 9th-11th**. Family Weekend is a great opportunity for Hamline families to experience campus life. Come to campus and spend the weekend visiting your student, talking with University faculty and staff, and exploring the Hamline community! Family Weekend activities will include a chance to meet with the Dean and Associate Deans of Students at the **Dean's Dessert Reception** on Friday night, followed by a **family-friendly event, workshop opportunities for parents and students** on Saturday, a **fall music concert and theatre performance, Hamline Football vs. Augsburg** on Klas Field, and a **traditional service** at Hamline United Methodist Church on Sunday morning followed by **brunch in the Bishop's Bistro** on Hamline campus.

We hope you'll join us for this great annual event! For more information about Family Weekend, including suggestions on where to stay while you're visiting campus, visit the [Family Weekend webpage](#).

HALLOWEEN STUDENT OUTREACH MESSAGE

Happy Halloween! We in the Dean of Students Office hope that all students will have fun engaging in the activities offered on campus and throughout the Twin Cities on Halloween this year. Each year, our office sends out a message to all undergraduate students reminding them of the importance of considering others and of making good choices when they celebrate. We recognize that many cultures have celebrations and rituals, such as Halloween, that allow people to disguise who they are, even if only for a single night. However, what one person considers celebratory may be offensive to another, and no one wants a seemingly harmless costume to have unintended negative consequences. **Below are some items that Hamline asks all students to consider as they make their costume selections and Halloween plans:**

- Is your costume choice something that is likely to be perceived as offensive or hurtful to members of another race, gender, religion, or culture? Will it reflect poorly on you or adversely affect our Hamline community?
- Will photos or social media posts capturing your celebration be misinterpreted and have a negative impact on your reputation now or in the future?
- If you plan to attend a party or celebration on Halloween night, do you have a friend to go along with you, particularly if you are walking in the evening hours to your destination? Are you being responsible in your choices regarding alcohol? If you are hosting, are you being a responsible host? Are you following Minnesota law?

THINKING AHEAD—FINANCIAL AID FOR 2019-2020

The 2019-2020 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is now available. The [FAFSA](#) is the application for financial aid at Hamline. Gather your student and parent 2017 federal tax information in order to complete the form. This FAFSA will be used to generate financial aid for the fall 2019, spring 2020 and summer 2020 terms. Please note that you and your student will need your [FSA ID](#) usernames and passwords to log in and sign the form.

UNITED METHODIST SCHOLARSHIPS AND LOANS

Is your student a member of the United Methodist Church?

In 1854, HU was founded by visionary Methodist ministers. Our affiliation with the UMC provides students with [scholarship and loan options](#) for those who are active members in the UMC. Scholarships can be local through your student's home parish, found at Hamline through our Methodist matching program, or available through the national [UM Higher Education Foundation](#) or the national [UMC General Board of Higher Education and Ministry](#).

HAMLIN DASH GRANTS: AN EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

In the fall of 2017, Hamline began a two-year partnership with Great Lakes Education Philanthropy to provide grants to qualifying* undergraduate students for one-time financial emergencies. These grants are called **Hamline Dash Grants**.

Hamline's goal in providing these grants is to assist students who might otherwise have to leave school due to a sudden financial emergency.

***To qualify for a Hamline Dash Grant, students must:**

- Be enrolled either part-time or full-time as an undergraduate, degree-seeking student seeking their first degree;
- Show evidence of a qualifying financial emergency (some examples include an unexpected car repair bill or a medical bill);
AND
- Have an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) of \$7,000 or less per year, based on their FAFSA information

Hamline Dash Grant funds may not be used to pay University-based bills such as tuition, housing, textbooks, study abroad, etc.

For more information about the grant, students are welcome to contact the Dean of Students Office at (651)523-2421 or an-studentaffairs@hamline.edu. Students may also fill out an application to meet with a staff member to discuss eligibility for the Hamline Dash Grant by visiting the [Dean of Students Student Services & Resources webpage](#) and clicking on **Request a Hamline Dash Grant**.

WINTER TIPS AND PREP

The leaves are changing, it's started getting chilly at night, and everyone is speculating about when we'll see our first snowfall of the season. Winter is coming, and it's coming soon! While we've hopefully still got a couple of weeks left until we see our first flakes, the Dean of Students Office staff thought now might be a good time to provide a couple of reminders about winter weather.

First, if your student came to Hamline with summer and fall clothing but neglected their **winter coat, boots, and other cold-weather gear**, now it is the time to bring it to campus. Whether your student commutes to campus or they live at Hamline in the dorms or apartments, parents can help remind their students that one of the best ways to avoid illness and missing class during the winter season is to dress appropriately for the weather.

Second, the lack of long daylight hours and the severe cold can make winter a potentially depressing time for students, who may be away from home for the first time and unsure how to cope with **depression or with Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD)**. Does your student know what to do if they have seasonal depression, or if they suspect they might need someone to talk to? Parents can remind students of their on-campus resources at Hamline's Counseling and Health Center and the Dean of Students Office. Additionally, if you are a parent who is concerned about your student's mental health, you are welcome and encouraged to call the Dean of Students Office at 651-523-2421 to let us know.

Finally, if your student parks on or near Hamline campus, they should be aware of Saint Paul's winter parking restrictions during Snow Emergencies, as well as pay attention to any alterations in campus parking availability due to snow removal. During winter snowstorms, your student should keep an eye on their campus email, as that is where any University closures due to weather will be announced. They can also sign up for the **Hamline ALERT text/email system** on the "Personal Information" tab in Pipeline. For off-campus parkers, one of the best ways to stay informed about Snow Emergencies is to download the free **Saint Paul Winter Parking Guide** app, available [here](#) or at <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/public-works/street-maintenance/snow-emergency-information/saint-paul-winter-snow>.

We hope you, your student, and your family will stay warm, enjoy the season, and plan for an enjoyable winter this year!